

REMARKS

Applicant submits this response to the outstanding Office Action on the above-identified application. Applicant has amended the application, as set forth herein, and respectfully submits that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is filed on even date herewith.

Applicant has amended independent Claims 1 and 15 to further define the present invention. Specifically, Claim 1 was amended to recite that the docking station comprises a base portion for receiving a portable device external to a car stereo, a bottom member connected to the base portion and defining a cavity for receiving a portable device, and an integration device positioned within the base portion for integrating a portable device with a car stereo, wherein the docking station is positioned remotely from the car stereo. Dependent Claims 2-3, 7, and 11 were amended to provide consistency with amended independent Claim 1. Independent Claim 15 was amended to more broadly claim the docking method of the present invention, and dependent Claims 16-17 and 21 were amended to provide consistency with amended independent Claim 15. New Claims 30-41 were added to further define the present invention.

I. SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Applicant's claimed invention relates to a docking station for docking and integrating a portable device for use with a car stereo. The docking station includes a base portion for receiving a portable device external to a car stereo, a bottom member connected to the base portion and defining a cavity for receiving a portable device, and an integration device positioned within the base portion of the docking station. **The docking station is positioned**

remotely from a car stereo, and includes an integration device positioned within the base portion of the docking station, as required by independent Claims 1 and 15 and their associated dependent claims.

II. SUMMARY OF THE CITED REFERENCES

Falcon discloses a portable computing device which is operable with an appliance, such as a car stereo. The car stereo includes a docking portion which receives the portable computing device. The portable computing device functions as a display for the car stereo, and allows a user to control the car stereo. The portable computing device includes a configuration module which identifies the type of appliance to which the portable computing device is connected. The appliance includes a type module which sends a data packet to the portable computing device. The data packet is utilized by the configuration module to determine the type of the appliance. The portable computing device generates a screen which is customized to the type of the appliance.

Miyazaki, et al. discloses a user-operable system for a vehicle which includes a central control unit and one or more detachable units which can be connected to one or more connectors positioned at various locations in the vehicle. In the first embodiment, the central control unit comprises an audio control unit, and the detachable unit includes a disk changer, a switch unit, and a multiplex control unit. In the second embodiment, the central control unit comprises a car navigation control unit, and the detachable unit includes a disk changer, a switch unit, and a liquid crystal screen and an associated switch and speaker, wherein the disk changer uploads map data to the car navigation control unit. In the third embodiment, the central control unit

includes an air conditioner control unit and the detachable unit includes a switch unit for controlling an air conditioner.

III. ARGUMENT

For the reasons set forth below, Applicant traverses the rejection of independent Claims 1 and 15 as being obvious over Falcon in view of Miyazaki, et al., and submits that Claims 1 and 15, as amended herein, are patentable over these references, taken alone or in combination. Applicant also submits that Claims 2-5, 7, 9-19, 21, and 23-29, which depend from Claims 1 and 15 and contain all of the limitations thereof, are also patentable.

A. None of the Cited References, Taken alone or in Any Combination, Teach or Suggest Providing a Remote Docking Station with an Integration Device Positioned Within a Base Portion of the Docking Station.

As discussed above, independent Claims 1 and 15 recite a docking station which is remote from a car stereo, and which includes an integration device positioned within a base portion of the docking station. Neither Falcon nor Miyazaki, et al., taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest this feature.

Falcon does not disclose a docking station positioned remotely from a car stereo. Rather, it only discloses a docking station formed in a car stereo for receiving a portable computing device. Falcon also fails to disclose an integration device whatsoever, and certainly does not disclose an integration device positioned within a base portion of a remote docking station. It merely discloses an “I/O Component” 142 in FIG. 2, which is not the claimed integration device. Importantly, even if one were to assume (for purposes of argument only) that the I/O Component

142 constitutes the claimed integration device, Falcon only discloses positioning it within either the portable computing device or an appliance (e.g., car stereo) to which the portable computing device is docked. It is not disclosed as being positioned within a base portion of a remotely-positioned docking station, as required by independent Claims 1 and 15.

Miyazaki fails to cure the deficiencies of Falcon. Although Miyazaki discloses remotely-positioned electric equipment units, none of these units includes an integration device positioned within a base portion of a docking station, as required by the claims. At best, Miyazaki discloses that the electric equipment units include a multiplex control unit 42 (see FIG. 2) associated with each electric equipment unit. However, the multiplex control unit 42 is not an integration device, and most importantly, it is positioned within the equipment unit itself and not within a base portion of a docking station, as required by Claims 1 and 15. Still further, reference numeral 38 in FIG. 1, which the Office Action improperly equates as the claimed docking station, is nothing more than a vehicle-side connector, not a docking station. Even if it was considered a docking station, it does not include an integration device positioned in a base portion thereof, as required by Claims 1 and 15. Importantly, neither Falcon nor Miyazaki, et al. are directed to devices for integrating incompatible products, such as a non-native, after-market, portable device which is incompatible with an existing car stereo. As such, they both fail to disclose an interface for integrating such products, much less an interface positioned within a base portion of a docking station, as required by the claims.

Simply put, neither Falcon nor Miyazaki, et al., taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest each element of independent Claims 1 and 15 and their associated dependent claims.

As to the remaining rejections, which are based upon Falcon and Miyazaki, et al. in various combinations with the remaining references (i.e., Holland, Byrne, et al., Northway, et al., and Stark, et al.), these rejections also fail because none of the remaining references, taken alone or in any combination, cure the aforementioned deficiencies of Falcon and Miyazaki, et al. Specifically, none of the references, taken alone or in any combination, teach or suggest a docking station which is positioned remotely from a car stereo and which includes an integration device positioned within the base portion of the docking station, as required by independent Claims 1 and 15 and their associated dependent claims.

B. One of Ordinary Skill in the Art Would Not Be Motivated To Combine the Teachings of Falcon With the Teachings of Miyazaki, et al.

The system of Falcon includes a portable computing device that includes a custom-generated display for selecting songs to be played by the car stereo disclosed therein. The portable computing device is an important part of the car stereo of Falcon because it serves as the primary display for the car stereo. The car stereo is custom-designed to receive the portable device, and without the portable device attached to the car stereo, the car stereo lacks a primary display. As such, one of ordinary skill would not look to position the portable computing device of Falcon away from the car stereo of Falcon, e.g., at one of the remote locations of Miyazaki, et al., since the primary display of the car stereo of Falcon would be removed from the car stereo and would not be easily viewable by a driver. The display provided by the portable computing device of Falcon must therefore be attached with the car stereo of Falcon so as to provide the primary display for the car stereo. Further, the combination of Falcon with Miyazaki, et al. would result in a car stereo which has a primary display screen that is positioned somewhere

remotely from the car stereo, making it very difficult and potentially dangerous to operate while driving a car. Accordingly, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not look to move the portable computing device of Falcon to some remote docking location, as suggested in the Office Action.

C. **Falcon Teaches Away From Providing a Docking Station Remote from a Car Stereo**

The Background section of Falcon teaches away from providing a docking station positioned remotely from a car stereo. Specifically, Falcon acknowledges that while a portable computing device can be docked within a cradle or “gooseneck” positioned somewhere remote from a car stereo (e.g., on a dashboard), it states that such a solution is **“cumbersome to the user in the car environment.”** (col. 1, lines 32-40). As such, Falcon clearly teaches away from docking its portable computing device at a remote location, such as at one of the remote locations disclosed in Miyazaki, et al. This clear teaching away, in combination with the important display and control features that the portable computing device of Falcon performs in connection with the car stereo (as discussed above), provides strong evidence that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the system of Falcon with the system of Miyazaki, et al.

Applicant also notes that none of the remaining references cited in the outstanding Office Action of Applicant’s co-pending application Serial No. 10/316,961 (i.e., U.S. Patent No. 6,653,948 to Kunimatsu, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,608,399 to McConnell, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,591,085 to Grady, U.S. Patent No. 6,346,917, and U.S. Patent No. 6,374,177 to Lee, et al.), taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest the claimed limitation of a docking station which

is positioned remotely from a car stereo and which includes an integration device positioned within a base portion thereof. McConnell, et al., the only reference to mention a vehicle docking station, does not disclose an integration device positioned within a base portion of a remotely-positioned docking station. It only discloses a controller circuit 14 within the docking station 10. The controller 14 is not disclosed as being an integration device for integrating a portable audio device for use with a car stereo. Rather, the controller 14 is only disclosed as communicating with a multiplexed vehicle signal distribution system 15. Certainly, McConnell, et al. does not disclose the specific structural and functional features recited in the claims. As such, McConnell, et al. fails to disclose an integration device for integrating an after-market audio device for use with a car stereo, which is positioned within a base portion of a remotely-positioned docking station, as required by Claims 1 and 15 and their associated dependent Claims.

Finally, Applicant submits that none of the cited references, taken alone or in any combination, teach or suggest each limitation of new Claims 30-41. These claims each recite a docking station which includes a base portion for receiving a portable device external to a car stereo, a bottom member connected to the base portion and defining a cavity for receiving a portable device, and an integration device connected to the base portion and in electrical communication with the portable device and the car stereo for transmitting a signal to the car stereo to maintain the car stereo in a state responsive to the portable device and for integrating the portable device with a the car stereo, wherein the docking station is positioned remotely from the car stereo. Again, neither Falcon, Miyazaki, et al., McConnell, et al., nor any of the references cited in the present Office Action or in the outstanding Office Action in Applicant's

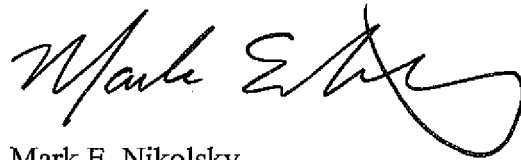
co-pending application, taken alone or in any combination, teach or suggest providing a docking station which includes a base member for receiving a portable device external to a car stereo, a bottom member connected to the base member and defining a cavity for receiving a portable device, and an integration device connected to the base portion and in electrical communication with a car stereo and a portable device for integrating a portable device with a car stereo, wherein the docking station is positioned remotely from a car stereo. As discussed above, the system of Miyazaki, et al. does not disclose a docking station having the features recited in the pending claims, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to provide the docking station of Falcon at one of the remote locations of Miyazaki, et al. McConnell, et al. fails whatsoever to disclose a docking station having an integration device connected to a base portion of the docking station, which performs the specific features recited in independent Claim 30. The remaining references are likewise deficient. As such, Applicant submits that Claims 30-41 are patentable over the cited references, taken alone or in any combination.

IV. CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant submits that Claims 1-5, 7, 9-19, 21, and 23-41 are patentable over the references cited in the Office Action, taken alone or in any combination.

All issues raised in the Office Action are believed to have been addressed. Claims 1-3, 7, 11, 15-17, and 21 were amended, and Claims 30-41 were added. Claims 1-5, 7, 9-19, 21, and 23-41 are pending and are in condition for allowance. Re-examination has been requested and favorable action solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark E. Nikolsky", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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